

## **Washington Update**

**September 2, 2004**

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#### **1. NASEMSD's Leslee Stein-Spencer Named EMS Administrator of the Year by NAEMT**

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) has named NASEMSD President-Elect Leslee Stein-Spencer EMS Administrator of the Year. Each year, NAEMT recognizes excellence in various areas of pre-hospital medical care with the presentation of individual and organizational achievement awards. These awards honor America's EMS

providers and organizations that demonstrate exceptional leadership within the profession and outstanding commitment to pre-hospital medical care. Chief Mike Hansen from Illinois nominated Stein-Spencer. She will accept the award at NAEMT's Annual Meeting in October in Atlanta, Ga.

## **2. Trauma-EMS Systems Program Stakeholder Meeting Rescheduled**

The Trauma-EMS Systems Program Stakeholder Meeting has been rescheduled for November 15-16, 2004, at the Marriott Metro Center, in Washington, D.C. The meeting schedule and content will remain essentially the same. For more information, contact Terry Mullins at [tmullins@trauma-ems.org](mailto:tmullins@trauma-ems.org).

## **3. IOM Future of Emergency Care Prepares for Fall Meetings**

The expanded main committee and subcommittees of the IOM Future of Emergency Care project successfully conducted their first meetings in June. Presentations from the June meetings are available at <http://www.iom.edu/emergencycare>. Another round of meetings will be held in September 20-21, 2004, and October 4-5, 2004. Agendas for the meetings will be posted online approximately two or three weeks prior to the meeting date and will indicate the timeframes for open sessions. If you are interested in attending any sessions, contact Candace Trenum at [ctrenum@nas.edu](mailto:ctrenum@nas.edu).

## **4. DHS Awards AMA \$1 Million for Disaster Life Support Training Program**

On August 23, 2004, Matt A. Mayer, chief of staff of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP), presented the American Medical Association (AMA) with a \$1 million grant to develop and deploy a disaster life support training program. The Competitive Training Grants Program provides funding for training initiatives to further DHS' mission of preparing the nation in the event of a terrorist incident. The AMA plans to develop and organize a standardized, exportable disaster life support training program to increase awareness of the basic skills, competencies, knowledge, and resources that are critical for a coordinated and effective local emergency response effort. Electronic versions of the course will be developed to greatly increase the number of first responders in rural and underserved areas who can access the modules via the web. For more information on SLGCP, visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/>.

## **5. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Alliance Formed**

On August 11, the formation of a new alliance, the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Alliance (SCAA), was announced. Some of the members are National Association of EMS Physicians, International Association of Fire Fighters, AED Instructor Foundation, and National Center for Early Defibrillation. For more information about the alliance visit [www.early-defib.org](http://www.early-defib.org) <<http://www.early-defib.org>> .

## **6. NEMSIC Issues RFP for Investigation of Risk Management Strategy for EMS Organizations**

The North Central EMS Institute (NCEMSI), on behalf of the National EMS Insurance Cooperative (NEMSIC), issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for qualified contractors to assist with the investigation and implementation of alternative risk management strategies for EMS organizations. Project information and the RFP are available at <http://nemsic.ncemsi.org> <<http://nemsic.ncemsi.org>> .

## **7. APCO Recommends Best Practices for Telematics Call Processing**

APCO established a Telematics Task Force in an effort to identify and create standards that are relevant to the communication of emergency information from Telematics Service Providers (TSP) to public safety agencies. These recommendations are based on site visits to Telematics Call Centers, input from TSP and a series of regional PSAP meetings. TSP offers a wide variety of programs to vehicle owners including location based services and automatic collision notification. PSAP's will receive consumer initiated requests for emergency assistance that will be routed through a Telematics Call Center. The Best Practices document is intended to provide clear guidelines for PSAP personnel who handle Telematics calls for service. Visit <http://www.apcointl.org/documents/TSPAUG604.pdf> for a copy of the report.

## **8. Leadership during Bioattacks Addressed in New Manual**

The Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center has released a leadership manual, "How to Lead during Bioattacks with the Public's Trust and Help." The purpose of the booklet is to offer recommendations to top decision-makers to better prepare them to safeguard the public's trust and cooperation during a response to a biological attack. The guidebook, available at <http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/>, constitutes the Executive Summary of recommendations by the Working Group on 'Governance Dilemmas' in Bioterrorism Response.

## **9. Regionalization of Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Report Available**

AHRQ has released a new evidence report, "Regionalization of Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response." The report seeks to evaluate the evidence regarding the effectiveness of existing regional systems that facilitate a response to bioterrorism. The full report was prepared by Stanford-UCSF Evidence-based Practice Center. It is available by calling the AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse at (800) 358-9295.

## **10. DHS Creates Web Portal for NIMS Resources**

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced the creation of a centralized Web portal to serve as a resource for emergency managers and first responders related to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The NIMS Web page, <http://www.fema.gov/nims> <<http://www.fema.gov/nims>> , is designed to offer a complete listing of NIMS requirements, tools and resources, and general information on DHS' new incident management and maintenance tool.

## **11. DHS Issues Results Agenda**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently released the DHS Results Agenda report. It was published as part of President Bush's federal government-wide Performance Management Agenda. The report details the department's improvements, priorities, and its focus on achieving results in financial management, e-government, human capital, and budget. To view the report, visit <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=58&content=3894>.

## **12. HHS Issues National Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan**

On August 26, 2004, HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson unveiled the department's draft Pandemic Influenza Response and Preparedness Plan, which outlines a coordinated national strategy to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. The draft plan is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/pandemicplan>. There is a 60-day public comment period.

### **13. Public Comment Sought on CDC's Vaccine Safety**

The CDC has undertaken a review of vaccine safety activities at CDC. As part of this effort, the CDC is seeking public comments regarding the current state of the agency's vaccine safety program and to identify ways in which excellence in vaccine safety monitoring, research and communication can be maximized and sustained in the future. CDC will post presentations of facts about CDC's vaccine safety activities on the CDC Web site so that the public can make informed comments about the objectives. The objectives may be viewed at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/vaccsafe/comments.htm/>. Links to presentations also are available on the site. Any questions should be sent to [vaccsafe@cdc.gov](mailto:vaccsafe@cdc.gov) <<mailto:vaccsafe@cdc.gov>> .

### **14. The Handbook of Emergency Cardiovascular Care for Healthcare Providers Updated**

The "Handbook of Emergency Cardiovascular Care for Healthcare Providers" recently was updated to include new guidelines for Acute Coronary Syndrome management, critical changes in drug treatments, and re-formatted reference tables. It now is available in a spiral bound version, which is easier to use and more durable. This handbook is available from the American Heart Association. To learn more, visit <http://www.americanheart.org/cpr> <<http://www.americanheart.org/cpr>> .

### **15. Topics in Emergency Medicine Issue Features Emergency Communication Systems**

The journal "Topics in Emergency Medicine" provided the ComCARE Alliance an opportunity to publish much of what it has learned in the six years since it was formed. In 11 articles, ComCARE Alliance members, allies, and other experts detail what a modern emergency medical response system could (and should) be and do. The articles are in the April-June 2004 issue of the journal.

### **16. Highway Safety Specialist Needed – Job Announced by NHTSA**

NHTSA has a vacancy for a Highway Safety Specialist with the Enforcement and Justice Services Division. This vacancy announcement has gone out under the "totally online QuickHire process," which should speed up the selection process. The link to the announcement is <http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=23748426&AVSDM=2004%>

2D08%2D23+13%3A04%3A47&Logo=0&col=dltc&cy=&brd=3876&lid=&fn=&q=2125  
<<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=23748426&AVSDM=2004%2D08%2D23+13%3A04%3A47&Logo=0&col=dltc&cy=&brd=3876&lid=&fn=&q=2125>> .

## **16. CAAS Accredits Eleven Agencies in July**

The CAAS Panel of Commissioners granted accreditation to eleven agencies. To see a press release listing all agencies receiving accreditation, visit [www.caas.org](http://www.caas.org) <<http://www.caas.org/>> .

## **17. STIA Announces the ComCARE Alliance's Sponsorship of SPATIAL TECH 2004**

The Spatial Technologies Industry Association (STIA) has announced that the ComCARE Alliance is a Cooperating Sponsor of STIA's SPATIAL TECH 2004 national policy symposium and exhibition. STIA established the Cooperating Sponsor Program to enable leading public interest groups, non-profit entities, academic institutions, and other stakeholder organizations to officially participate in the symposium. For more information, visit <http://spatialnews.geocomm.com/dailynews/2004/aug/17/news1.html>.

## **18. Crume Resigns from Arizona Post**

Judi Crume, RN, Ph.D., has resigned as state director of EMS in Arizona. In an e-mail to NASEMSD, she writes, "I have enjoyed getting to know other directors....it has been a pleasure." Best wishes to Judi.

## **19. Armacost, Former Education Committee Chairman, in New Position**

Mike Armacost, former NASEMSD Education Committee chairman, has moved on to a new position after more than 30 years in EMS related work. He is the education coordinator for Catholic Health Initiatives. You can contact Mike at [michaelarmacost@catholichealth.net](mailto:michaelarmacost@catholichealth.net) <<mailto:michaelarmacost@catholichealth.net>> . NASEMSD wishes him much success in his new endeavor.

## **20. Upcoming Events (\*\* denotes event is newly added)**

National Association of EMS Educators 9th Annual Educational Symposium and Trade Show, Sept. 7-12, 2004, Hollywood Renaissance, Los Angeles, Calif. Information is available at <http://www.naemse.org/symposium>.

Conference on Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities, Sept. 22-24, 2004, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Va. Information is available at <http://www.nod.org> <<http://www.nod.org>> .

"First Things First: Defining Local Public Health Practice for Safer, Healthier Communities" Public Health Grand Round, a national live satellite broadcast and Web cast, Sept. 24, 2004, 2:00-3:00 p.m. eastern time. Information is available at <http://www.PublicHealthGrandRounds.unc.edu>.

The 2004 Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Annual Meeting: "Highway Safety – Priority 1.0", Sept. 25-29, 2004, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii. Information is available at <http://www.ghsa.org>.

ASTHO 2004 Annual Meeting: "Communication, Cooperation, Coordination – Building Bridges in Public Health", Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2004, St. Paul, Minn. This conference is co-located with the Annual Meeting of the Association of Public Health Labs. Information is available at <http://www.astho.org/>.

Drive for Life, 2004 MADD National Conference, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2004, Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, Grapevine, Texas. Information is available at <http://www.madd.org/>.

**\*\*EMS Expo, NAEMT Annual Meeting, and American Ambulance Association Annual Conference & Trade Show, Oct. 19-23, 2004, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Ga. Information is available at <http://www.emsmagazine.com> <<http://www.emsmagazine.com>> or by calling (977)EMS-EXPO.**

CAAS Fall 2004 Accreditation Seminar, Oct. 20, 2004, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Ga. Information is available at <http://www.caas.org> <<http://www.caas.org>> .

Air Medical Transport Conference, Oct. 25-27, 2004, Cincinnati Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. Information is available at <http://www.aams.org/amtc2004.html> <<http://www.madd.org/>> .

4th Global Homeland Security Conference & Expo – Protecting the Nation's Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets, Nov. 22-23, 2004, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Information is available at <http://www.protectinfrastructure.com> <<http://www.protectinfrastructure.com/>> .